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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Bulgaria

SUBJECT

Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer  
Training Schools

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. An infantry school is located in Turnovo. It trains company commanders for infantry troops. The main subjects given by the school are infantry weapons and infantry tactics. The courses last about four months to half a year at the most. Three hundred officers are trained here every year.
2. Because of the rearming of the Bulgarian Army and because of the great changes in tactics, long or short courses are given to officers depending on whether they have been just recently discharged or discharged at a previous time. Recently discharged officers finish the course in five months. The name of the infantry school is Bacho Kiro.
3. The Stalin military political school is located in Sofia. Here candidate noncommissioned officers are being trained for lower type political cadres in the army. They do mainly police work. Students study the history of the party, the history of the Soviet Communist Party, the biographies of Stalin, Dimitrov, Lenin, etc, as well as the militia work. The course lasts one year. Noncommissioned officers schools are in Knyazevo and Gorna Banya, Bosnia, Sofia; in Star Zagora; Kazanlik; Puzovo; and Burgas. Only troops which have completed the candidate noncommissioned officers schools are allowed to participate in these schools. After they complete reserve noncommissioned officers schools, they are assigned to various military units. The course lasts six months.
4. Reserve officers' schools are located in Sofia, in Knyazevo, and in Stanke Dimitrov (formerly Mareg). The course lasts two years, after which these officers go to units as candidate officers. If they qualify, they are made 2nd Lts after six months. Schools for reserve officers and noncommissioned officers are located in Sofia and Silistra. These schools are only for signal corps troops, such as telephone, radio, telegraphy, and signal.
5. A labor officers' school [school for officers of trudovak units] is located in Sofia. The course lasts one year and a half. These schools are also attended for refresher purposes by old line officers, who were discharged and

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then again accepted in the army (labor units). The purpose of this school is to train them politically and militarily in the spirit of Stalin and Dimitrov.

6. The school for border officers is located in Sofia and is under the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense. The cavalry officers' school in Silistra has a limited number of students because of a decrease in cavalry troops. A naval officers' school has its headquarters in Stalin and Balchik on the Black Sea. A school for tank officers is located in Plovdiv. This school is well organized and its instructors are Soviet majors, lieutenant-colonels, and colonels.
7. Pilot schools are located at the air fields of Stara Zagora, Karlovo (now Levskigrad), Dolna Matropehliya, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Kazanluk, and the air field at Krumovo near Plovdiv. Here only ordinary pilot officers are trained. Pilots for jet aircraft are trained in the USSR, where they are sent with the recommendation of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. They go there at the expense of the government.
8. The Vasil Levski Infantry School trains platoon leaders. The course lasts three years. Candidates for this school are taken on the recommendation of the Party and they must have completed at least secondary school. Exceptions are made with former political prisoners and former partisans, but these are asked later to complete secondary school education. For this purpose the military school itself has evening courses. Candidates are also accepted through competitive examinations. The course lasts three years. Candidates in this school are accepted from the infantry school. Artillery platoon leaders are trained here.
9. An air force officers' school is located in Kazanlik and Bozhurishte. A special parachute section is located in Telish near the Bolbukhin Air Field in Dobrudzha. In the last two air fields / Bozhurishte and Telish / there are Soviet instructors. In Telish and in the Krumovo Air Field there are Soviet aircraft with Soviet pilots who do the training. Students who have completed eight classes / in secondary school / are accepted. The course lasts three years and officers for the Bulgarian Air Force are trained here.
10. The military academy which is located in Sofia consists of two sections. One section is a general military section and the other is a quartermaster section. Forty officers are accepted every year to this school, which is located on the Klement Gottwald Street in Sofia.
11. A school for officer cartographers offers courses which last three years. Students must have secondary school education and must be recommended by the Party. After completing this school, officers are assigned to the General Staff of the army, that is to the Institute for Cartography in Sofia. Some officers are assigned to the staffs of individual army units, divisions, etc.
12. The Air Force accepts students who have completed courses in physics and chemistry at the physics and mathematics section. After these students have completed the reserve officers' school, they are assigned to meteorological stations at airports or to the directorate of the Air Force in Sofia. These students, if they have completed the infantry or artillery school and not the officers' Air Force School, are given a supplementary training course at the Telish Air Field after which they go on duty in the Air Force.

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